

**September 9, 2011**

**WASHINGTON, DC**—U.S. Congressman Peter DeFazio (D-OR) today responded to President Obama's American Jobs Act to the joint session of Congress. Following are DeFazio's remarks:

“We needed a bold vision and a new direction, unfortunately the President’s proposal is an eerie echo of his first stimulus bill which I opposed. The first stimulus failed because it was more than 40% tax cuts and less than 7% in critical infrastructure investment with the balance spread across assistance to states and a mishmash of federal programs. Public investment overall accounted for only 22% of spending in the stimulus, but generated 42% of the jobs.

“This bill has the same misplaced priorities and the same scattershot approach. More than 50% of the spending will be for tax cuts and less than 12% will be investment in infrastructure to put people back to work and make our nation more competitive.

“The President’s speech tonight does include the prospect for some short-term jobs. However, it’s not a long-term vision for getting the economy back on track, putting people to work, making us more productive, and benefitting future generations.

“More than half the cost of the bill is to pay for yet more tax cuts that haven’t worked. These tax cuts haven’t created jobs and they are too expensive. And while working families could use an extra \$20 a week, it will not help the 20 million unemployed who are not getting a paycheck.

“We need real investment. We need a massive investment program in the future of this country to make us more competitive in the world economy. And this bill falls short in the same way the stimulus did.”

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